

## GREATER DANDENONG YOUTH NETWORK 2026

### AGENDA

**Meeting Theme:** Youth Crime in CGD

Thursday 14 May, 9.30-11.00am

Meeting Format: In Person at Third Place Youth & Community Hub, Level 3/26 McRae St, Dandenong

<b>Acknowledgement of Country, Welcome and Introduction</b>	9.30am
<p><b>Third Place Youth &amp; Community Hub</b> Sally Rumble – YSAS</p> <p>Sally Rumble for YSAS provided an overview of the Third Place Youth and Community Hub and YSAS programs.</p> <p>Third Place is a safe space for young people to gather, as well as a space to support their families. It was co-designed with young people who are already engaged in YSAS programs and aims to support suicide prevention among young people.</p> <p>Third Place includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large community room for drop-in sessions, youth programs and community meetings</li> <li>• Kitchen – space for life skills and cooking programs, as well as a food bank pantry for young people to access groceries for free</li> <li>• Hair and Beauty training space coming soon</li> <li>• Young mother’s space coming soon</li> </ul> <p>YSAS currently runs a drop-in Day Program on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11am – 2pm with a schedule of activities published every fortnight.</p> <p>Space available on Tuesdays and Thursdays for community bookings at no cost, services are invited to use the space for programs, events and meetings.</p> <p>Upcoming events at Third Place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Law Week Event on Wednesday 20 May 11am – 3pm, for young people 12 – 25 yrs who would like to learn about their rights with Police and other authorities and understand more about Youth Law and relevant information.</li> <li>• South Sudanese Cultural Day planned for end of June</li> </ul> <p>Contact Sally Rumble <a href="mailto:srumble@ysas.org.au">srumble@ysas.org.au</a> to enquire about using the space or for further discussion.</p>	9.35am
<p><b>Youth Crime Forum – Overview, Insights and Next Steps - Greater Dandenong Council</b></p> <p>On March 19, 2026, Council’s Youth &amp; Family Services and Community Safety teams delivered the <i>Greater Dandenong Youth Crime Forum</i>, which brought together leaders and managers from across the local youth sector. Following this event, we are shared key insights and to involve frontline youth practitioners in shaping the next steps for future action.</p> <p><b>Event overview</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than 100 stakeholders, including government departments, law enforcement, policymakers and community organisations</li> <li>• Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Acting Sergeant Trent Delaney - Churchill Fellow on international best practice in youth crime prevention. Read his Churchill Fellowship Report here: <a href="#">Trent Delaney - Churchill Trust</a></li> <li>○ Inspector Cameron Prins - local data and emerging trends</li> <li>○ SECL and Metro Trains - Community Connectors pilot program</li> <li>○ Andrea Davidson - newly established Violence Reduction Unit</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Collaborative discussions to identify key priorities for collective action</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Insights</b></p>	9.40-9.50am

<p>Top rated areas for action:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Addressing community perceptions of crime</li> <li>2. Strengthening partnerships across the youth sector</li> <li>3. Improving information and data sharing</li> <li>4. Mapping and addressing service gaps</li> </ol> <p>Key themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information/data sharing</li> <li>• Storytelling and community perceptions</li> <li>• Youth sector partnerships/service mapping</li> <li>• Challenging funding models</li> </ul> <p><b>Next steps</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an action plan focusing on key action areas identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Data sharing - local data</li> <li>○ Best practice research and case studies</li> <li>○ Professional Development</li> <li>○ Community storytelling</li> <li>○ Exploring pilot programs</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Mobilise forum attendees and the local sector for shared ownership and delivery</li> <li>• Share outcomes and updates via a quarterly newsletter</li> </ul> <p>Meeting attendees were asked to provide comments and contributions to shape the next steps of this work. If you would like to contribute, please complete this survey: <a href="https://www.menti.com/alhnmdh9kgoq">https://www.menti.com/alhnmdh9kgoq</a></p>	
<p><b>Supporting Children at Risk of Justice Engagement (SCRJE) Program</b>  <i>Geoff Tan - DFFH</i></p> <p>On 30 September 2025, the minimum age of criminal responsibility was raised to 12 years old in Victoria. To support this change, the Department of Families Fairness and Housing (DFFH) established a pilot service response, Supporting Children at Risk of Justice Engagement (SCRJE), initially funded until 30 June 2026 with funding now extended for another two years.</p> <p>Geoff Tan, Senior Multi-Agency Safety Planning Coordinator, spoke about the work undertaken thus far via the pilot program. He provided an overview of the program and how local service providers can make referrals.</p> <p>SCRJE is an early intervention program, supporting young people aged 10 -11 years and 12 -13 years, who are at risk of engagement or already engaged with the justice system and aims to support young people and their families and address their unmet needs.</p> <p>Eligibility criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-harm behaviours</li> <li>• Persistent patterns in harmful behaviours or an escalation of behaviour (in intensity or frequency)</li> <li>• Presence of risk factors</li> <li>• Insufficient existing supports</li> <li>• Significant barriers or resistance of service engagement</li> </ul> <p>How SCRJE provides support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It's a voluntary service with informed consent from the family</li> <li>• Access to specialised forensic services and care team support</li> <li>• Child focused support for behaviour change to address the unmet needs and foster positive and pro-social behaviours</li> <li>• Family support to work with the young person's family and build their capacity</li> </ul> <p>So far have SCRJE has worked with 25 young people after formally launching late 2025. Accepting referrals from anyone in the community. Reach out to Geoff with referrals and questions. Geoff Tan: <a href="mailto:SCRJESouth@dffh.vic.gov.au">SCRJESouth@dffh.vic.gov.au</a></p>	<p>9.50-10.15am</p>

<p><b>Consultation – Integrated Children, Youth and Families Strategy 2027 – 2031 – Greater Dandenong Council</b></p> <p>Youth &amp; Family Services are currently undertaking consultations to support the development of our forthcoming Integrated Children, Youth and Families Strategy. We have consulted widely with children, parents and young people throughout the community, and would like to take this opportunity to ask network members to share their perspective. Key questions for discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What trends or challenges are you seeing in your work with children, youth, or families?</li> <li>• What prospective partnerships or innovations could support improved outcomes for children, young people and families?</li> <li>• What should Council prioritise in its strategy?</li> </ul> <p>If you were not present and would like to contribute to the strategy, please complete this survey: <a href="#">Greater Dandenong Children Youth &amp; Family Integrated Strategy - Youth Sector Professionals – Fill out form</a></p>	<p>10.15-10.40am</p>
<p><b>Network Information Sharing</b></p> <p>An opportunity for network members to introduce themselves and share a brief program / service update.</p> <p><b>City of Greater Dandenong Youth Services:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July School Holiday Activities schedule will be published on Monday 18 May with a range of free and low-cost activities for young people aged 12-25 years. Program flyers will be delivered to schools and services next week. Full program available on the website: <a href="#">Holiday Activities   Greater Dandenong Council</a></li> <li>• Performer Applications for Dandy’s Got Talent: Registrations for performers closing Sunday 31 May and event held on Thursday 9 July at the Castle. Tickets for event available from Monday 18 May.</li> <li>• Write It Out: Greater Dandenong Short Story Competition: Opportunity for young people aged 12-25 years to submit short stories and illustrations and win awards. Entries closing Friday 17 July. Further information: <a href="#">Write It Out: Greater Dandenong Short Story Competition   Greater Dandenong Council</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Key Assets (Maree)</b></p> <p>Key Assets is a not-for-profit organisation providing foster care and family support services across Australia. In Victoria, Key Assets currently supports approximately 86 foster carers and 110 children and young people in care. Foster care provides a safe, stable, and nurturing home environment for children who are unable to live with their families, on a short-term, long-term, or emergency basis. There is an ongoing need for more foster carers across the region to ensure children can remain connected to their communities, schools, and support networks. Key Assets provides comprehensive training, 24/7 support, and financial assistance to approved carers. We are currently seeking individuals, couples, and families who may be interested in becoming foster carers for respite, emergency, short-term, or long-term placements. Please share the attached flyer within your workplace and networks where possible. We would also appreciate any support in displaying a promotional banner (3m x 1m) at your workplace to help raise awareness. If you have any upcoming events where we may be able to host a stall to promote foster care and engage with the community, we would greatly appreciate the opportunity to be involved.</p> <p>Maree Radford: Key Assets Support Worker/Recruitment team 0421 119 254.</p> <p>Website: <a href="#">Key Assets   Key Assets Australia</a></p> <p><b>Chisholm (Emily)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victorian Early Leavers Connection Initiative for young people aged 15 – 20 years: Offering education to young people not engaged in mainstream education, can offer campus tours and information meetings.</li> <li>• Skills and Job Centre works with young people and currently have no waitlist. Website: <a href="#">Skills and Jobs Centre   Chisholm TAFE</a></li> </ul> <p><b>St Kilda Gatehouse (Rebecca – Program manager)</b></p> <p>Work with young people 12 – 25 years who are at risk of sexual exploitation. Currently taking referrals across South and East regions. Offer a 6-week early intervention program to work with young people to understand risks and protective factors.</p>	<p>10.40-10.55am</p>

<p>If anyone is interested, please get in touch with Rebecca: <a href="mailto:rebecca@stkildagathehouse.org.au">rebecca@stkildagathehouse.org.au</a> or 0435 116 993.  Website: <a href="#">Belong Connect Respect</a></p> <p><b>headspace (Mika)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Law event in collaboration with YSAS and Youth Law, on Wed 20 May 11am – 3pm. for young people 12 – 25 yrs who would like to learn about their rights with Police and other authorities and understand more about Youth Law and relevant information.</li> <li>headspace currently taking referrals</li> </ul> <p>Website: <a href="#">headspace Dandenong   Youth Mental Health Centre &amp; Services</a></p> <p><b>RecLink Australia (Blake)</b></p> <p>Blake is the new Sports Coordinator for CGD area for RecLink – a not-for-profit organisation offering sports and recreational activities for the community.  Website: <a href="#">Reclink   Home</a></p> <p><b>Your Journey (Dineesha)</b></p> <p>Currently taking EOIs for an upcoming wellbeing program for young people aged 15 -21 years who are at risk or may have involvement with the justice system and/or currently not engaged in education or employment. Program will explore emotional regulation, provide connections to coaches, councillors and wellbeing teams.  Contact Dineesha: 0479 179 115 or <a href="mailto:wellbeingcounselling@moira.org.au">wellbeingcounselling@moira.org.au</a>  Website: <a href="#">About Us   Your Journey</a></p> <p><b>Memory (Fitness trainer)</b></p> <p>Provides fitness education and is open to connecting with services for collaboration. Can provide fitness and nutrition services and workshops to community and young people.</p> <p><b>Monash Health Sexual and Productive Health clinic (Stacey)</b></p> <p>Team offers contraception advice, medical terminations of pregnancy and health education sessions for young people in groups as well as 1:1. Service is free. Young people can call with questions and meet with the team to get advice.  Website: <a href="#">Sexual and reproductive health services - Community-based   Monash Health</a></p> <p><b>Satellite Foundation (Luke)</b></p> <p>Support program for young carers aged 18-25 years. Working in Dandneong and Frankston area and take referrals.  <a href="#">Satellite Foundation   Creativity and connection for mental health and wellbeing</a></p>	
<p><b>Evaluation  </b> Feedback on today’s meeting</p>	<p>10.55-11.00am</p>
<p><b>Meeting Formally Closes</b></p>	<p>11.00am</p>
<p><b>Next meeting   Tuesday July 21, 2026, 9.30am – 11am</b>  <b>Meeting Format:</b> Online via Zoom  <b>Topic:</b> Responsible AI Use in the Youth Sector</p>	

For submissions to the GDYN eNewsletter, please provide a brief update to [matilda.houlihan@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:matilda.houlihan@cgd.vic.gov.au)  
Deadline for June 2026: Friday 22 May